

DUNTON GREEN NEWS

Dunton Green Parish Council

Issue 038 Winter 2025



Inside this edition:

Road & Pavement Safety In Dunton
Health & Wellbeing - Winter Wellness
Local Plan
Dunton Green PTA - School Update



Dunton Green Parish Council
Working for a Better Community in Dunton Green

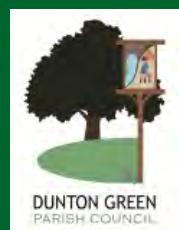
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DUNTON GREEN NEWS

c/o Parish Council Office, Dunton Green Pavilion,
Recreation Ground, Dunton Green, Kent TN13 2UR

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Chairman's Update

As the schools return from the summer holidays, autumn is often a busy time for the Parish Council. Our September fireworks event was another successful evening. The weather stayed dry and over £1500 was raised for EIF (Education in Full) and the Dunton Green Primary School PTA, who ran a very tasty BBQ.



Halloween brought some anti-social behaviour on a couple of evenings. A lot of broken bottles in the recreation ground and 999 services including the fire service were called. In future, if it looks like trouble is brewing, please call the police as soon as possible.

November is when we start our budgeting for next year and it's never easy. Local government is being reorganised and both Sevenoaks District Council and Kent County Council will be replaced by an as yet unknown number of unitary authorities. As a Parish Council we expect to have to take on extra responsibilities and their costs as the reorganization process unfolds. You will know that we have not increased our share of your council tax bill for several years but I think we will have to for 2026/27. We will keep any increase as small as possible as I think there is little doubt that SDC, KCC, Fire and Police will all ask for the maximum they are allowed.



It is hard to believe but the Pavillion is now over 10 years old. Since its opening we have run a very popular Lunch club, once a month with Age UK. We were flabbergasted (yes, I have been watching The Traitors!) when with less than a week's notice, Age UK announced that they were unable to continue to support this event and that they would no longer supply the meals from their kitchens in Hollybush. Our volunteers were extremely disappointed. Fortunately, despite the short

notice, Diane Carey, who has catered for several Annual Parish Meetings, stepped in, and with the continued support of our dedicated volunteers we will be able to run these lunches for the foreseeable future. It's for over 55's and we always welcome newcomers.

Cont...



CLLR. FREDA ENGLAND



....Chairman's Update

So it's certainly been a busy few months but that's nothing compared with the consequences of the latest consultation on SDC's Local Plan.

I'm sure I'm not the only person who has spent hours looking across the fields on either side of Rye Lane and wondering WHY???



A view across fields in Rye Lane - part of the SEV 24 site in the Local Plan

This beautiful countryside, which until the publication of the latest consultation was classified as strongly performing Green Belt, has been designated by SDC as Grey Belt and is earmarked for the development of 1500 homes. It is Sevenoaks District Council who have decided it is Grey Belt, not the Government. The Government introduced the concept of Grey Belt and gave examples of old garages and

golf courses. Sevenoaks District Council have chosen these fields which act as a flood plain, and are bordered by the nature reserve, to be lost forever.

As a Parish Council, we have met with our MP Laura Trott who opposes Green Belt development. We hired a Planning Consultant to help draft our response, ensuring we had expert advice on how we could object. We have used our social media to ensure parishioners have been kept informed and advised on how to respond themselves. We have urged all to sign the petition to change the definition of Grey Belt in the National Planning Policy Framework.



meetings (all Parish Council meetings are open for the public to observe).

We would also like to thank the groups that have formed and launched their own campaigns. We will continue to fight. We implore SDC to review other less beautiful areas, concentrate on Brown belt, and spread new Grey Belt throughout the district. Lessen the burden on Dunton Green which has had over 550 new homes in the past 10 years, with no improvement to infrastructure, health provision or schools.



**Cllr. England Chairman of DGPC, Laura Trott
MP and Tracy Godden Clerk to DGPC**



Whilst we wait to see what will happen next, the Parish Council continues to work to make Dunton Green a lovely village to live in.

I hope you enjoy the return of our fabulous Christmas lights.

Merry Christmas,
Freda

Freda England
Chairman of Dunton Green
Parish Council
freda@duntongreen-pc.gov.uk
www.duntongreen-pc.gov.uk



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PARISH COUNCIL



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01732 462221
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Keeping Our Pavements Safe: A Reminder to Trim Hedges and Trees

As a result of concerns that have been raised about pedestrian journeys to and from the school, the Parish Council is asking for your help.

As a community, we all share responsibility for keeping our village safe, welcoming, and accessible. One important but often overlooked aspect of this is the maintenance of hedges and trees along property boundaries.

When hedges, shrubs, or tree branches grow unchecked, they can spill out onto pavements. This may seem minor at first, but it can quickly create hazards for pedestrians:

- 🚶 **Reduced space for walking** - Pavements narrowed by overgrowth make it difficult for people to pass, especially those with pushchairs, wheelchairs, or mobility aids.
- 🌧 **Increased risk in poor weather** - Wet leaves or branches can be slippery, and potentially forcing pedestrians into the road to avoid them is dangerous.
- 🌙 **Visibility concerns** - Overhanging branches can obscure street lighting, making pavements darker and less safe at night.
- 👶 **Safety for children and elderly residents** - Vulnerable members of our community are most at risk when pavements are obstructed.

What You Can Do

- Regularly check the boundary of your property to ensure hedges and trees are not encroaching onto the pavement.
- Trim back growth to the edge of your boundary line, keeping pavements clear and accessible.
- Dispose of clippings responsibly, either through garden waste collections or composting.

A Shared Responsibility

By keeping hedges and trees neatly trimmed, we help ensure that everyone - young and old, residents and visitors alike - can move safely and comfortably around the village. It's a small effort that makes a big difference to community wellbeing.

Let's all do our part to keep our pavements clear, safe, and welcoming for everyone.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

Keep Pavements Clear for Everyone



Please trim your hedges and trees back
to your property line to keep pavements
safe and accessible for all everyone



Remembrance Day 2025





Thank you to everyone
who joined us for this
year's service and made
it such a special event.



Up and down the
village, Armistice
Day was
remembered.



The Poppy Girls by Rebecca Norburn

The poppy is the iconic symbol of Remembrance and recognised as such across the globe, but did you ever wonder where the poppies we wear so proudly are produced? Sadly not from Flanders Field, but rather less prosaically from our neighbouring county of Greater London - which, coincidentally, is where the historic tradition of artificial flower production has its roots (if you'll pardon the pun)...

In the UK, the flower is often viewed through the lens of the Royal British Legion, with the official manufacturing of poppies beginning in the 1920s. What is less widely known, however, is the earlier role of a group of disadvantaged young women known as the "Crippleage Girls" (a term that, thankfully, is obsolete today) in the production of artificial flowers for charitable causes, and how that practice paved the way for the poppy as an emblem of thanks, hope and peace.



Established by preacher John Groom in 1886 in Clerkenwell, the Crippleage and Flower Girls' Mission aimed to support those who were blind, disabled, or vulnerable. The mission's work addressed the welfare of young women who sold watercress, flowers or worked on the streets of the city, often in unsafe conditions. The girls were taken in by the Mission and offered bed and board in return for hand-



making artificial flowers from linen, silk and sateen. Occasionally, they would sell these blooms in person at local music halls, but typically a day's work would involve a long stint on the factory floor, from where the flowers were then sold to London wholesale houses, retailers and for special events.



In 1916, the Mission was approached by a group of women in Whitby and asked to assemble poppies for an impromptu fundraiser - at which a donation in return for a flower would aid injured soldiers. This proved enormously popular and would soon become the annual event adopted by the Royal British Legion that we are all familiar with today. Thus the "flower girls" (as they had by now become known) went on to make the first artificial poppies produced in this country, carefully crafted in linen with wire stems twisted in green paper.



Moving forward, and as the advent of a second World War led to a shortage of surplus materials, the Board of Trade ceased to licence the supply of pins and fabrics critical for the mission's work, and there was a fall in sales. Thankfully the former flower girls were able to adapt their skills to metalwork, assembling tools for the military and vital rivets for Spitfires.



Therefore, we can be sure that these hardworking women continued to contribute to the war effort throughout the years.



Now, of course, things are rather different! According to Wikipedia "the poppies are produced by a workforce of approximately 50, primarily disabled former British military personnel, who work year-round at the Poppy Factory in Richmond. Every year, in excess of 48 million poppies are shipped, with 45 million poppies being distributed to England, Wales, and Northern Ireland and the remainder to 120 countries across the globe."

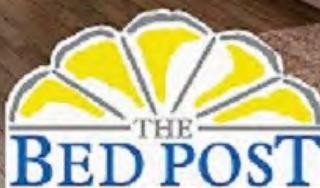
We can assume that these modern-day poppy-producers undoubtedly experience easier working conditions than the Cripplegate Girls of the early part of the century! Nevertheless, reflecting on the origins of this iconic fundraising symbol of hope, thanks and respect remains as important today as it ever did.



(With thanks to The Royal British Legion and Wikipedia)

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Village Organisations & Local Listings

Dunton Green Pavilion

Recreation Ground, London Road, Dunton Green TN13 2UR

Bookings: Email - bookings@duntongreenpc.org.uk | Phone - 07305 814694

Dunton Green Lunch Club

1st Wednesday each month | Book with Judith 07836 525938

Age UK Pop In (Seated Exercise)

2nd Wednesday each month | 01732 741558

Pilates (Bryony Tilley)

07973 345221

Taekwondo (Oaks Martial Arts)

01732 759988 | info@oaksmartialarts.com

Mata Brazilian Jiu Jitsu

matabjj24@gmail.com | www.matabjj.co.uk | 07599 715411

Dunton Green Recreation Ground

London Road, Dunton Green TN13 2UR

Easy Netball (SDC)

01732 227000 | communities@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Community Basketball (Kent Panthers)

Just turn up Mondays 5.30pm April to December

Backyard Bootcamp

07803 050431 | enquiries@backyardbootcamps.co.uk

Other Dunton Green Venues

Donnington Hall

Bookings: Mrs J Field- 01732 462429

Darent Table Tennis Club

David & Janet Field | 01732 462429

Gauge One Model Railway Assoc

Jeff Brazier | 01732 454890

DG School of Ballroom Dancing

David & Sandra Coppen | 07808 540315

Dunton Green Badminton

Lilian Bowling | 01959 522576

National Kick Boxing & Karate Assoc

Hilary King | 07796 858194

Sevenoaks Table Tennis League

Janet Field | 01732 462429

Village Hall, London Road

Bookings: Harry Purves - 07790 627393 | h.purves426@btinternet.com | dgvillagehall@hotmail.com

Coffee Morning

3rd Thursday each month 10.30am

Holy Communion

1st, 2nd & 4th Thursdays (see St Mary's info) 10.30am to 12.00pm

Church Fellowship Group

Sundays 10am to 12pm & 4pm to 7pm

Dunton Green Primary School, London Road

Bookings: School Office - 01732 462221 | office@dunton-green.kent.sch.uk

Kuk Sool Won Sevenoaks

07963 338544 | www.kswsevenoaks.com

Bujinkan Sevenoaks Dojo

bujinkansevenoaksdojo.org (16+, Thurs eve)

The Gathering Church Service

Sundays 2.45-4pm

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF WE CAN UPDATE THIS LIST WITH
THE DETAILS OF OTHER ACTIVITIES AND ORGANISATIONS
IN THE VILLAGE

Village Organisations & Local Listings

Other Organisations and Activities

Bessels Green Baptist Church

St Mary's Church Riverhead with Dunton Green

Citizens Advice Bureau (Sevenoaks)

Dial-A-Ride (Compaid)

Dunton Green Social Club

Kent County Council

Kent Fire & Rescue

Kent Police

Sevenoaks Men's Sheds

Sevenoaks District Council

Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group

01732 454921 | info@bgbc.co.uk

www.stmaryriverhead.co.uk

01732 440488 | info@sevenoaks.cab.org.uk

01892 832447

info@duntongreensocialclub.co.uk | 01732 462549

03000 41 41 41 | www.kent.gov.uk

01622 692121 | 999 emergency | www.kent.fire-uk.org

101 | 999 emergencies | www.kent.police.uk

www.shedsevenoaks.weebly.com | 01732 743365

01732 227000 | communities@sevenoaks.gov.uk

01732 458931 | www.sevenoaksvolunteertransport.com



Dunton Green Village Hall

07790 6257393

Space Available

Dunton Green Pavilion
07305 814694
bookings@duntongreen-pc.gov.uk



Space Available



Donnington Hall
01732 462429
Space Available

Dunton Green Lunch Club

1st Wednesday each month

11:45 am to 2 pm

£6.50

Join us for a delightful meal and good company!



**Dunton Green Pavilion Recreation Ground
London Road Dunton Green Kent TN13 2UR**

**Please contact Judith to book
07836525938**

Sponsored by Dunton Green Parish Council and run by a dedicated team of volunteers.



DUNTON GREEN
Borough of Sevenoaks

DATES FOR THE DIARY NO COLLECTIONS OVER WINTER

28th February 2026*

* EARLY TIMINGS - LUSTED ROAD 10.45AM TO 11.15AM
& MILL ROAD 11.30AM TO 12.00PM
21st March 2026

STANDARD TIMINGS FOR 2025/26:
LUSTED ROAD 1.00PM TO 1.30PM
MILL ROAD 1.45PM TO 2.15PM

Please look out for updates on our website, social media and noticeboards
Sevenoaks District Council may no longer offer this paid for service after the
March collection

**PLEASE BRING ALONG YOUR EXCESS REFUSE AND TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF THIS ADDITIONAL SERVICE
NON-RECYCLABLE REFUSE (EXCLUDING METAL)**



FREIGHTER REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE



DUNTON GREEN
Borough of Sevenoaks

SATURDAY FREIGHTER GUIDANCE

The Freighter cannot accept white goods (excludes microwave ovens) washing machines, dishwashers, fridges, freezers, cookers, cast iron boilers, building materials, manure, large parts of engines or vehicles or hazardous waste materials, monitors, batteries, oil tins and filters, paint and paint tins and chemical containers. Hazardous waste now includes items like fluorescent tubes, televisions & computer monitors, batteries, oil tins and filters, paint and paint tins and chemical containers. These items cannot be accepted on the Saturday Freighter service and must be taken to your nearest Household Waste Recycling Centre.

Compostable garden waste cannot be accepted.



FREIGHTER REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE

Discover Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu in Dunton Green

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu (BJJ) is a martial art and sport that focuses on ground fighting and grappling. It was developed from Japanese Jiu-Jitsu and Judo, with an emphasis on technique and leverage, allowing a smaller person to overcome a larger opponent. Using joint locks and chokeholds, practitioners learn to control and submit their training partners safely and respectfully. BJJ is not only an excellent form of self-defence but also a great way to build fitness, confidence, and problem-solving skills.

Meet Your Instructor – José Mata

Classes are led by José Mata, a 2nd-degree BJJ black belt under Ricardo Da Silva (Nova Força UK). With black belts also in Judo and Traditional Ju-Jitsu, José brings a wealth of experience from both competition and teaching. He has won gold at the European Masters, medalled internationally, and holds a professional MMA record of 7–4. Known for his relaxed, friendly teaching style, José creates a welcoming environment for all students, from complete beginners to seasoned competitors.

About Mata BJJ

Mata BJJ is proud to be part of the Nova Força UK team. Our gym is more than just a place to train; it's a supportive community where people of all ages and backgrounds can enjoy the benefits of BJJ. Whether you want to improve fitness, learn self-defence, or test yourself in competition, you'll find encouragement and friendship on the mats.

Class Schedule

- **Monday** – Gi Class: 7pm – 8:30pm
- **Wednesday** – No Gi Class: 7pm – 8:30pm
- **Friday** – Gi Fundamentals: 6:30pm – 8pm
- **Saturday** – Kids BJJ (8–12 years): 10am – 10:45am
- **Saturday** – Teen BJJ (12–15 years): 11am – 12:00pm

Your first class is free!

Location

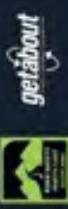
Dunton Green Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Dunton Green, Sevenoaks TN13 2UR

Come along and give Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu a try – you might discover a new passion right here in Dunton Green!

Email: matabjj24@gmail.com

Website: www.matabjj.co.uk





BE BRIGHT AT NIGHT

At night or in poor daylight, wearing something light-coloured, bright, fluorescent or reflective can help other road users to see you.



With the nights drawing in we are all reminded of the importance of being safe and seen when using our roads and pavements.



A Councillor's Take on Winter Wellness: Moving and Eating Well When It's Cold Outside by Cllr. Sara Fenn

This time of year is hard. And as the winter draws in, it gets harder to stay healthier and keep moving when your whole body wants to curl up under the covers and eat comfort food. How can we keep our bodies moving and eating healthily when we feel like doing the opposite?

I'm Sara Fenn, a newly appointed Parish Councillor to Dunton Green, and I am incredibly passionate about finding health in the most natural way possible, by fusing the best of ancient wisdom with modern-day knowledge.

When we look through an ancestral lens, winter is the time to look inward, to take stock, to nourish, and to rest. Note that most animals hibernate at this time of the year - winter is not a time of exertion or starting new and exhausting regimes. That's what spring and summer are for.

So, I recommend leaning into the gentleness of winter and choosing movement, foods, and sleeping patterns that are more cohesive with the seasons, rather than trying to stick to exertion, extreme cardio, and finding that you quickly fail.

Movement

What a beautiful place for gentle long walks in nature! We are surrounded by lovely, long and safe walks in almost all directions - from the nature reserves to Otford, and from Chipstead Lakes to the Keyhole.

Local Movement Options:

- **Stretching and alignment:** Restorative yoga is a wonderful way to wind down on winter evenings, instead of being a couch potato on the sofa watching TV. Pilates is fantastic for all ages, wonderful for alignment and core strength - important for everyone.
- **Resistance training:** If you do have the itch to really exert yourself and do resistance training that is so essential for bone density, longevity... and brain health, there are local gyms and outdoor gym equipment at the recreation ground.
- **For children:** There's the pavilion playground tennis, football and basketball courts, as well as numerous activities at the pavilion for children to take part in and enjoy.

If you need moral support to muster up the energy for a walk or any class, get a friend on board - it'll be more fun and you can hold each other

accountable.

Remember to move - even if you're moving slowly. Exercise is the best anti-depressant.

Eating Well

Our mood (Ref 1) and immune response (Ref 2) can drop in the winter due to a lack of Vitamin D3. In fact, Vitamin D3 is proven to increase your resilience to Covid (Ref 3). Get your face in the sun, and do not wear sunscreen at this time of the year.

Boost Your Vitamin D3 (it's more immune protective than Vitamin C!):

- Eat mushrooms and full-fat yoghurt to increase your vitamin D3 intake
- The best way to increase your Vitamin D in the winter is to supplement with Vitamin D3 + K2 (tremendously important if you are pregnant)
OR go on holiday to the southern hemisphere to naturally top up your D3 - not necessarily available to everyone, as much as we'd like it!

Satiate Your Appetite with Healthy Fats:

Traditional fats are best: butter, olive oil, avocado, ghee, tallow.

Guess what? Your grandmothers got it right. Ignore the new fake fats - these don't belong in our diet. Avoid processed fats such as margarine, sunflower oil, and rapeseed oil. These are often hydrogenated and inflammatory, and correlate with increased risk of heart disease (Ref 4).

Warm Winter Foods:

- Don't throw away those Halloween pumpkins! Warm yourself up with fibre and polyphenol-rich soups, whether they are pumpkin, squash, delicious mixed vegetables, etc.
- Eat all the earthy colours of the rainbow to get your full intake of vitamins and minerals
- Avoid beige, deep-fried, overly processed food

Small Fatty Fish:

A fan of anchovies? Anchovies are the fish highest in Omega-3s. These support proper brain function, brain development, memory (if you're worried about Alzheimer's/dementia), and provide anti-inflammatory fats. And, as they are small and usually wild-caught, always in season and local to the UK, they also have the lowest mercury and toxins compared with any other fish.

When choosing your food, focus on nutritional density rather than worrying about calories. When you eat real, wholesome food, you are more likely to feel full (as you feed your gut microbiome), as opposed to feeling overfed and undernourished on processed foods and takeaways.

Summary

Winter wellness doesn't mean fighting against the season - it means working with it. Instead of forcing ourselves into intense exercise regimes and restrictive diets, we can embrace the gentler rhythm of winter by focusing on sustainable movement and nourishing foods.

Key Takeaways:

Move gently: Take advantage of our beautiful local walks, try restorative yoga or Pilates, or visit the CrossFit gym if you need more intensity. The important thing is to keep moving, even slowly - exercise is the best anti-depressant.

Eat for warmth and immunity: Support your body through winter with Vitamin D3 (from sun exposure, mushrooms, full-fat yoghurt, or supplements), healthy traditional fats (butter, olive oil, avocado, ghee), colourful vegetable soups, and small fatty fish like anchovies for brain-boosting Omega-3s.

Focus on quality: Choose nutritionally dense, wholesome foods over processed options. Avoid inflammatory oils and deep-fried foods. Feed your body properly, and you'll feel satisfied rather than overfed and undernourished.

Winter is nature's time for rest and restoration. By aligning our habits with the season and choosing nourishing movement and foods, we can not only survive the winter but truly thrive through it. Stay well, Dunton Green!

Let me know what areas of health you would like to hear about next!

References:

- Ref 1 - <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9468237/>
- Ref 2 - <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3166406/#:~:text=Vitamin%20D%20has%20numerous%20effects,phenotype%5B34%2D35%5D.>
- Ref 3 - <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-022-24053-4>
- Ref 4 - <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/trans-fat#:~:text=Trans%20fat%20clogs%20arteries%2C%20increasing,as%20crackers%2C%20biscuits%20and%20pies.>

Introducing Two New Councillors...

Cllr. Robert Royston

As a long-standing Dunton Green resident and recently retired NHS professional, I am eager to contribute to the community by serving on the Parish Council. With a background in electrical and electronic engineering and decades of experience in healthcare, I hope to bring practical skills and fresh energy to the Parish Council. As an enthusiastic amateur cyclist, I'm passionate about road safety and sustainable transport, and I understand the challenges faced by all road users. I'm keen to support local initiatives and work closely with residents to make a positive difference.

Cllr. Sara Fenn



I'm delighted to join Dunton Green Parish Council, bringing diverse experience from charity work to business leadership. My career began advocating for women and girls at YWCA Tonbridge, before founding a ketogenic health business inspired by family circumstances. Today, I promote brain health and ancestral wellness approaches.

My multicultural background—Irish Catholic and Pakistani Muslim—provides unique insights into integration and community cohesion. With an MSc in Anthropology and extensive volunteering experience with children's organisations globally, I'm committed to making Dunton Green a safe, healthy, and vibrant community where justice, local engagement, and wellbeing can thrive for all residents

...And One New Member Of Staff

Rebecca Norburn

I'm delighted to be joining the Parish Council team as the new Assistant Clerk and Facilities Officer. Having grown up in the village and now raising my two young children here, I feel a strong connection to our community and to everything that makes Dunton Green such a special place to live. I'm looking forward to supporting the work of the DGPC and helping to maintain and improve facilities that benefit us all.



My background in fundraising and my time volunteering with our local primary school's PTA have given me a real appreciation for what can be achieved when people come together to make things happen. You may well see me out and about checking on the Parish Council's various assets around the village such as the defibrillators, open spaces, and community noticeboards, so please do say hello!



DUNTON GREEN
PARISH COUNCIL

Dunton Green Parish Council
Tracy Godden: Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
01732 462966 / clerk@duntongreen-pc.gov.uk
Rebecca Norburn: Assistant Clerk & Facilities Officer
07305 814694 / bookings@duntongreen-pc.gov.uk



Cllr. Freda England
Chairman DGPC
freda@duntongreen-pc.gov.uk



Cllr. Anthony Carrol
anthony@duntongreen-pc.gov.uk



Cllr. Graham Hersey
graham@duntongreen-pc.gov.uk



Cllr. Angel Gomes-Chodyniecki
angel@duntongreen-pc.gov.uk



Cllr. Guy Forster-Pearce
guy@duntongreen-pc.gov.uk



Cllr. Sara Fenn
sara@duntongreen-pc.gov.uk



Cllr. Paul Lockey
Vice Chairman DGPC
paul@duntongreen-pc.gov.uk



Cllr. Annie Norton
annie@duntongreen-pc.gov.uk



Cllr. Debbie Parker
debbie@duntongreen-pc.gov.uk



Cllr. James Copeland
james@duntongreen-pc.gov.uk



Cllr. Robert Royston
robert@duntongreen-pc.gov.uk



DUNTON GREEN
PARISH COUNCIL

**There are currently no
vacancies on the
Parish Council**

Your other local representatives:



Sevenoaks District Council
01732 227000
www.sevenoaks.gov.uk



Cllr Kim Bayley
cllr.bayley@sevenoaks.gov.uk



Cllr Graham Clack
cllr.clack@sevenoaks.gov.uk



Kent County Council
03000 41 41 41
www.kent.gov.uk



Cllr Nigel Williams
Nigel.williams@kent.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCIL EVENTS : DATES FOR THE DIARY

Tues 2nd Dec 2025 - Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm Pavilion

Tues 9th Dec 2025 - Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm Pavilion

Fri 19th Dec 2025 - Christmas Singalong 6pm Village Green

Tues 13th Jan 2026 - Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm Pavilion

Sat 2nd Feb 2026 - Bulk Freighter Collections (page 17)

Tues 10th Feb 2026 - Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm Pavilion

Tues 10th Mar 2026 - Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm Pavilion

Sat 21st Mar 2026 - Bulk Freighter Collections (page 17)

Weds 25th Mar 2026 - Annual Parish Meeting & Parish Reception

Tues 14th Apr 2026 - Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm Pavilion

Visit www.duntongreen-pc.gov.uk for more information

COPY DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

1st February 2026

**Please forward items, articles & photos
for possible inclusion to**

clerk@duntongreen-pc.gov.uk

or to Dunton Green Pavilion (address on page 2)

ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH, RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL – WEEKEND OF THE 13TH/14TH DECEMBER 2025

Saturday 13th 9.30am - 4.30pm

Sunday 14th 11.00am - 3.30pm

3.30pm - Carols Amidst the Trees

CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2025

Sunday 30th November 9.30am Service for Advent

Sunday 21st December 8.00 am Holy Communion

9.30 am All Age Worship – Nativity Service

7.00 pm 9 Lessons & Carols

Wednesday 24th December 2.30 pm Crib Service (ages 0-4 years)

4.00 pm Christingle Service (ages 4 & over)

11.30 pm Midnight Eucharist

Thursday 25th December 9.30 am Holy Communion



Dunton Green Primary School PTA: Supporting Our School and Community

Dear Dunton Green Community,

I'm delighted to bring you an update from Dunton Green Primary School after a wonderful start to the new academic year!



The children came back after the Summer Break with huge enthusiasm and were delighted to be reunited with their friends across the school.

There were some changes ready to greet them with the work on the new Reception classroom complete - and what an amazing transformation it has been. The classroom now has six huge windows letting in much more daylight, a brand-new toilet block and kitchen area providing dedicated facilities for our Reception children, along with new equipment throughout the classroom. A huge thank you to the £100,000 grant from Coombe Bank Foundation that made all this work possible, what a transformation!



Additionally, we've been able to update our in-classroom libraries with a new range of books relevant to each year group and accessible every day.

I bring exciting news from Team DG's perspective - the launch of our brand-new PTA website www.teamdg.org.uk. The Team DG committee met just before the Summer and made the decision to push forward with creating our own website, and with the use of AI, we have managed to create the website free of charge by ourselves, a huge thank you to Onkar Battacharya for helping get the site live in October. This means we now have one dedicated place to co-ordinate event organisation, volunteering and buying tickets. Please sign up and we can notify you directly of all the upcoming events, all through the new website.

It's been a busy start to the year for all... In September we welcomed our new Reception class, and they each met their Year 6 "Buddy" who will be with them throughout the academic year. Team DG hosted a welcome coffee morning with the new Reception parents. As always, we start the year by electing the Year 6 Prefects and Class Reps for the respective School- and Eco- Councils. These roles are sought after by the children and those elected are very proud to be representing their

classmates. Our congratulations to all who stood for positions as well as those elected.

We've also had a sporty start to the year; our KS2 football team took part in a tournament at St Michael's Prep School in Otford, and our Year 6 students played competitive games against other schools at Knole Academy. Our sports clubs are all back up and running with Jujitsu, Basketball, Dodgeball and Football clubs, and we now have a full girls' football team for the first time! Our Year 3 and Year 4 children have been having swimming lessons at Sevenoaks pool, and Year 5 and 6 children have been mountain biking. This term's Intra-House Competition was Basketball which was won by Jessica Ennis House.

Our other clubs have been flourishing as well, with the children enjoying clubs including Art, Gardening, Board Games, Colouring, Times Table Rock Stars and Drama.



This year we're excited to have introduced "Mini Mechanics" where children build everyday machines – learning not just about the concepts of STEM but also enhancing teamwork skills, problem-solving and self-esteem. They learn to share ideas, listen to others, and celebrate achievements together. Children of all abilities are thriving through improvements in attention, confidence and communication. The Mini Mechanics Club provides sensory stimulation for tactile and visual learners, step-by-step processes that build pattern and focus, improved fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination

and opportunities for social interaction and teamwork. Some of the discoveries include: how pulleys lift weight, how wheels reduce friction, gearbox mechanisms and many more. These hands-on lessons help children connect what they learn to the everyday machines around them—like cars, lifts, and household appliances. The club provides a safe space where every child feels capable and included, and each session ends with a sense of pride—not just in the robot or model they created, but in the new skills they discovered within themselves.



This term, we have been raising money for both the PTA and for Demelza, a charity with whom we have had a strong association. We are glad to announce that we have raised enough money to bring "Mowlcolm the Owl" back to Dunton Green Primary School for good. You may remember we decorated

Mowlcolm especially for Demelza's "Trail with a Tale" last year, helping Demelza to raise over £75,000 for the Children's Hospice. This term we have held a Bake Sale, Break The Rules Day, and Pumpkin Competition with the money raised going to Demelza.





I personally had the pleasure of dressing up as Count Drew-cula as we held our first Family Fun Quiz, when children from every year dressed up in fancy dress and joined their parents in answering six rounds of questions suitable for all ages. As Quiz Master, I took great delight in watching the grown-ups' confused looks as their Reception children

shouted out the correct answers to questions that they knew nothing about!

As a PTA, we aim to fund activities as well as equipment and this term we organised a visit from The Company of Critters to give everyone a hands-on experience with lots of different animals. The children got to meet and handle "Fish" the Python – a great name for a snake who likes swimming a lot! Katy from Critters has an incredible way with the children (and the animals) and it was a amazing experience for the whole school.



On top of this, other events have included the Harvest Festival, with collection for the local food bank, weekly library trips, Outdoor Classroom days (no time spent indoors



all day), parent & carer coffee mornings and some amazing trips for the pupils. The Year 6 pupils went to the Trench Experience at CEMA Detling Hill, where they got to experience World War one trenches as they learnt more about life as a soldier. Year 4 departed for their two-night PGL Windmill Hill residential over the Halloween weekend and

took part in activities such as Abseiling, Fencing, Giant Swing and Aeroball amongst others. They were all so brave and built friendships, confidence, resilience, and most of all made memories that will last a lifetime!



Looking ahead to the run up to Christmas, as always there's our KS1 Nativity which the children are already getting excited about. This year all the children from Dunton Green Primary and all three schools in the Compass Federation are off to see Cinderella, the pantomime at The Woodville Theatre in Gravesend. The children will get to party at the Team DG Christmas Disco, with music and games galore and then



we finish off 2025 with our All-School Carol Concert at St Mary's Church in Riverhead on Friday 19th December 2025, where friends and families get to enjoy their children getting into the festive spirit! We still have two Open Days this year on Tuesday 9th December 2025 at 9.30am and Friday 9th January 2026 at 9.30am. If you have a little one who will be starting school in September, please do book a place by visiting the school website: www.dunton-green.kent.sch.uk. It is a great opportunity to come along and find out everything there is to know about the school and see what an exciting learning space our school provides. Additionally, Mrs Holiday does 1:1 tours on Tuesday mornings throughout the year and you can book these through the school office.

Note: the deadline for applying for Reception places for September 2026 is Thursday 15 January 2026 so make sure you get your application in. We look forward to welcoming our 2026 intake next September!

Don't forget, there is the promotion at The Bed Post in Dunton Green, whereby if you are buying anything from them and you mention Dunton Green Primary School you will get 10% off your bill and The Bed Post will make a donation of the saving to Team DG to help fund our work with the school.

If you would like to support Team DG in any way, please do visit our website teamdg.org.uk where you can find out about all the ways in which you can support our cause. And if you want to know what is going on at the school, please do follow the school's Instagram page: www.instagram.com/duntongreenschool/

As always, I would like to thank all the local businesses and friends & families who help support Dunton Green Primary School and Team DG throughout the year. We would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and hope you have a wonderful festive season.

Best regards,
Drew Barnes

Chair of the PTA (Team DG) Dunton Green Primary School
www.dunton-green.kent.sch.uk teamdgschool@gmail.com



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Jung Eun Séverine Kim (piano)
Sat 18 Oct 2025

Hildegard, Prokofiev, Brahms, Bowen
Calathea String Quartet
Sat 15 Nov 2025

Sevenoaks Young Musicians
Severo Holst, Britten, Beethoven
Sun 14 Dec 2025

Imogen Holst, Britten, Beethoven
Cheelys Consort of Viols (quintet)
Fair Oriana (soprano duo)
Sun 24 Jan 2026

A Musical Menagerie
Trio Meliynnia (flute, cello, piano)
Sat 21 Feb 2026

Haydn, Schumann, Hummel,
Gaubert, Enesco, Farrenc
William String Quartet
Sat 21 Mar 2026

Haydn, Dvorák, Beethoven
London Piano Quartet
Sat 18 Apr 2026

Alwyn, Dvorák, Brahms
www.sevenoaksmusicclub.org.uk

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For more information, please contact Age UK MST on 01732 741558 or email office@ageukmst.org.uk

2nd Wednesday of the Month

1:30pm-3:00pm

Dunton Green Pavilion, Recreation Ground, off London Road, TN13 2UR

FREE to attend
Please call to book

Mobility, Balance & Strength Pop Up

Would you like help to improve your mobility, balance and strength? Have you had a fall or are you worried about your balance? Meet others in the same situation, get useful health tips, learn exercises to keep yourself strong and mobile and have a chat and cuppa!

For more information, please contact Age UK MST on 01732 741558 or email office@ageukmst.org.uk

Maidstone, Sevenoaks & Tonbridge

age UK

2nd Wednesday of the Month

1:30pm-3:00pm

Dunton Green Pavilion, Recreation Ground, off London Road, TN13 2UR

FREE to attend
Please call to book

For more information call 01732 454108



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Bespoke Estate Agent

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BOJANGLES



COFFEE HOUSE

Bojangles is a small independent coffee shop situated in the centre of Dunton Green

We provide bespoke catering for private events either to be held at our Coffee House or at a venue of your choice



Afternoon Teas
Weddings
Birthdays
Celebration of Life
Corporate Events
Baby Showers



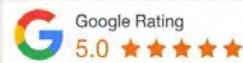
Please contact us to discuss

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Dunton Green Social Club

**Need somewhere to hold
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Family Celebration

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Reception

With lower than average bar prices, our hall hire is perfect for any event that requires a venue. Function room can seat 70+ people

Booking is subject to terms and conditions and a deposit is required at the time of booking.

 Find us on Facebook

01732 462549

info@duntongreensocialclub.co.uk

159 London Rd, Dunton Green, Sevenoaks TN13 2TA

Update on Road Safety in Dunton Green (Tracy Godden, Clerk & RFO)



Dunton Green Parish Council has been working hard over a period of several years to address safety concerns raised by residents about London Road (A224) and the area outside Dunton Green Primary School. We want to share what has been requested and why certain measures have not been implemented.

What We Have Asked For

- **Lower Speed Limits:** We requested a review of speed reduction measures, including introducing a 20mph limit near the school.
- **Additional Speed Signage:** We requested additional painted roundels on the road surface to reinforce the speed limits in the village.
- **New Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs):** We asked for these on the approach roads to the village, like Morants Court Road
- **Flashing School Lights (Wig-Wags):** We explored installing flashing lights with an advisory 20mph limit during school times.
- **Obstructions on Pavements:** We raised concerns about overgrown vegetation causing obstacles on already narrow pavements.
- **London Road/Station Road Mini Roundabout Junction:** We asked for a review of this junction, due to the poor sight lines when exiting from Station Road.
- **Community Speedwatch:** We have tried to set up a volunteer group to monitor speeds, including having sites risk assessed for suitability.



Why These Have Not Been Implemented (Feedback from KCC)

- **20mph Limit:**
 - o London Road is a classified A-road and a strategic route.
 - o Average speeds are above 25mph, and Kent Police only supports 20mph limits where speeds are 24mph or less.

- o Physical traffic calming (needed for compliance) cannot be installed on A-roads due to emergency service agreements.
- **Speed signage:**
 - o The A224 London Road is a Restricted Road throughout its length in Dunton Green. This means that by law, it is a 30mph speed limit by virtue of a system of street lighting, of more than three lamps and less than 183m apart. Therefore, no speed limit signs or road markings are permitted by law throughout this speed limit.
- **Speed Indicator Devices:**
 - o These can only be installed in 30mph areas, not the 40mph areas where we repeatedly are told that traffic speeds into the village
- **Flashing Lights:**
 - o Department for Transport guidance prohibits wig-wags near zebra crossings to avoid confusion. There is a zebra crossing just north of the school.
- **Pavement Concerns:**
 - o Widening the pavements along London Road is not feasible.
 - o Overgrown hedges narrowing pavements should be reported via KCC's **Report a Fault** tool so landowners can be asked to cut back vegetation.
- **London Road/Station Road Mini Roundabout Junction:**
 - o The visibility from the give way lines on Station Road to the north at the mini roundabout is sufficient in order to give way to the right. The personal injury collision record for the roundabout is very good and so changes are not warranted.
- **Community Speedwatch:**
 - o Lack of volunteers has prevented this initiative from starting. KCC and Kent Police are ready to help if volunteers come forward.



What You Can Do

- **Report Overgrown Hedges:** Use KCC's online Report a Fault tool to help keep pavements clear (this can be found via www.kent.gov.uk).
- **Volunteer for Speedwatch:** If you can help, please contact the Parish Council.
- **Stay Alert:** Use alternative walking routes where possible until vegetation is cut back – easier said than done, of course.

What DGPC Is Doing Now

- **Raising Awareness About The Impact Of Overgrown Vegetation:** DGPC will continue to remind residents of just how important this is.
- **Asking For Improvements to the London Road Underpass:** This should be a safe route for crossing London Road, but it floods and gets full of silt build up and leaves. DGPC is working with KCC, SDC and the School to resolve these issues
- **Installing Banner Posts On The Village Green:** These will be positioned to ensure that motorists can view messaging that will promote safe driving and highlight that the school is close. Banners promoting events will also be displayed so that the messaging is changing.



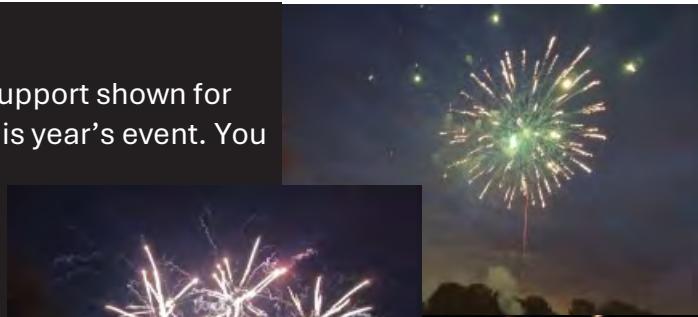
- **Providing 30mph Stickers For Wheelie Bins:** Wheelie bins will be introduced by SDC in 2026 for the collection of refuse. DGPC will be asking residents to help us to highlight the speed limit by putting 30mph stickers on their bins. If you already have a wheelie bin, we can supply stickers now. Please contact us.
- **Zebra Crossing Reflective Sleeves:** DGPC is working with Cllr. Graham Clack (SDC) to establish the costs of installing highly reflective sleeves on the beacon poles at the zebra crossings to try to improve safety at crossings.

The Parish Council remains committed to improving safety and will continue working with Kent County Council and the school to explore all possible options.



Fireworks 2025

Thank you for the support shown for local charities at this year's event. You donated an incredible £1500 for Education in Full and Team DG!



Out and About - 'What Katie Saw' Information, Gossip and News from Kate, our roving correspondent

I know many of you saw the massive cavalcade of over 18 vehicles which brought the American Vice President through the village this summer.



The Independent news article about US Vice President JD Vance's visit to Britain. The headline reads: "US vice president JD Vance to stay with David Lammy as he holidays in Britain". The article discusses Mr Vance and his family's summer holiday at Chevering, the Foreign Secretary's Grade I-listed mansion in Kent. It includes a photo of David Lynch, a video player showing a video of JD Vance, and social media sharing options.

The Local Plan has seen a lot of coverage in the local media - Laura Trott MP even visited Dunton Green!



This was a very strange sight to see in the village!



Saves a walk to Riverhead Library.



Local people are coming together to challenge inappropriate development in the village. The plan was published, and since then, the Local Plan's Sevenoaks branch to shut its doors.

Out and About - 'What Katie Saw' Information, Gossip and News from Kate, our roving correspondent



I was sad to see this popular local business (Sevenoaks Animal Feeds) has closed following retirement after over 40 years.

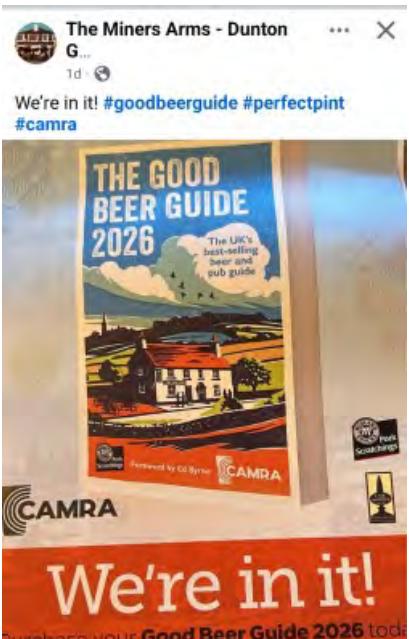


A tree down by the Rose and Crown



Remembrance Day
recognized at The Miners

Out and About - 'What Katie Saw' Information, Gossip and News from Kate, our roving correspondent



Well done the great team at The Miners.



**Station steps looking bright and shiny
although I'd love a lift!!**



I've spotted this van going around Ryewood on a Thursday evening.

It's that time of
year again - if it
isn't flooded,
the underpass
is covered in
leaves.



Out and About - 'What Katie Saw' Information,

Gossip and News from Kate, our roving correspondent

Primary school pupils take part in fundraising swim challenge

DIRECTOR, Dunton Green Primary School has been supporting Denzelia charity and the school welcomed Lauren Beggs, an 11-year-old pupil, to the school to celebrate the pupils' achievement of swimming 10 lengths in 30 minutes (1,600m).

Lauren, a pupil from Year 2 and upwards, joined Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 pupils to take part in a 2023 swimathon organised by Maldonstone Riverside Rotary, swimming a total of 1,425 lengths.

The pupils were also joined by a swimming team of parents and governors who also contributed money for Denzelia, and a huge cheering squad at the side of the pool.

Denzelia is a charity which provides care for children with serious or life-limiting conditions.

Loren added: "It was so lovely to meet the students who swam and raised money for Denzelia this week."

"They all did so well and I was struck how young some of them are – some of the swimmers were only six when they took part. I am so inspired."

"It's been a pleasure to see the children from Dunton Green involved and interested in the work of Denzelia."

Pupils have also taken part in a trail with a Tale, which is a puzzle trail featuring 10 different puzzles created by local schools and community groups.

There will be 10 large sculptures and 25 school sculptures in the trail, including the Dunton Green Primary School owl, Mowcolin, who will be at Imperial Pharmacy in Tunbridge Wells. The event runs until September 8.

Ben Hulme, executive head teacher, said: "It is an important part of our year to encourage our children to take part in charitable events, to help them develop a greater respect for the world, pupils swimming, colouring the owl, and raising money for Denzelia."

"This is the second year we have done this and we are looking forward to more pupils being involved next year. They all show commitment, determination, achievement, teamwork and perseverance!"

Dunton Green Primary School is in a small, rural village in the south of the county of Kent.

At the start of term in March 2023 said: "Pupils are the school as a beacon of hope and we are all proud of their school and its place as at the heart of their local community. The school's provision for pupils' personal development is second to none."

"It contributes to all aspects of day-to-day school life, academic and pastoral success and resilience in pupils. "Pupils are exposed to a wide range of experiences and an excellent selection of extra-curricular clubs is available for all pupils."

Dunton is a children's hospital and registered charity based in Kent, delivering clinical care and emotional support to children facing serious or life-limiting conditions.

The charity is named after Denzelia Phillips, daughter of former MP and Jennifer Phillips, who died of a brain tumour at the age of 24 and subsequently inspired the creation of the best hospice in 1998. It continues to be dedicated to reaching people who need support across the South East.



**Willow making front page news.
Thank you for your lovely creations.**





Get the latest crime statistics by visiting: www.kent.police.uk/yourarea

Community Safety Update

📍 Dunton Green & Riverhead

1. Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) We're aware of an increase in anti-social behaviour in the area. However, only a small number of formal reports have been received. Please note: incidents posted on Facebook will not be actioned. To report ASB, use one of the following official channels:

- 999 (emergency)
- 101 (non-emergency)
- Report online

2. Road Safety Speed enforcement is being considered for the area, subject to resource availability.

3. Vehicle Crime – Keyless Car Theft This remains a district-wide issue. To reduce your risk:

- Use a **steering lock**
- Store keys in a **Faraday pouch** to block signal transmission
- Install a **tracker**
- Consider an **immobilizer**



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E-scooters – are you breaking the law?



No, it's illegal...

Can I ride my e-scooter to school or work?

E-scooters are classed as motor vehicles and are required to be taxed and insured. It's not possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters, which means it's illegal to use them.

No, it's illegal...

Can I ride my e-scooter on the pavement?

You cannot use e-scooters on public footpaths, cycle lanes or roads.

What happens if I'm caught using my e-scooter in public spaces?

The scooter may be seized and as a result, destroyed.

If stopped by an officer, you may be asked to complete a breath and drugs test. You also risk a £300 fine and six penalty points on your licence for no insurance.

Think before you buy:

The number of electrical scooters being used on our streets has risen, as well as reports of serious injury and fatalities. For more information and advice on the use of e-scooters visit www.kent.police.uk/road-safety



Contacting Kent Police

Find your answer online. Browse our A to Z question finder www.kent.police.uk/askthepolice



Email your local policing team.
Visit www.kent.police.uk/yourarea



For non-urgent issues, call 101



In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger, call 999



If deaf or speech impaired, text 'police' and your message to 60066



Find us on Facebook



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Follow us on Instagram @kent_police



Kent Police

www.kent.police.uk

PARISH COUNCIL News Highlights



♦ **Local Development Scheme (Plan 2042)**. The Parish Council has reported in every issue of Dunton Green News this year that there were important changes coming to the National Planning Policy Framework, including the new Grey Belt designation, and that Sevenoaks District Council would be running a public consultation on its emerging Local Plan (formerly known as Plan 2040, now Plan 2042) in the Autumn. When we highlighted this in the Autumn edition we did not know all of the sites or the dates of the consultation. The sites on Rye Lane (SEV 24 and SEV 16) were very much unexpected and, understandably, have caused us all a great deal of consternation. It seems to have come as a surprise to many that a large part of Dunton Green falls within what SDC refers to as the 'Sevenoaks Urban Area'. Sadly, this has been the case since the time of the planning application for the Ryewood development and it meant that the 500 dwellings there could be included in SDC's figures for Urban development. It is something that DGPC objected to at the outset and which it has routinely criticised and questioned ever since. If you haven't responded to the consultation to raise your views about the proposals that impact Dunton Green, please do. The consultation closes at 11.59pm on Thursday 11th December. At the time of publishing this newsletter, Dunton Green Parish Council has yet to agree its formal response to the consultation but this will be agreed at an extra meeting on Tuesday 2nd December. The response will be issued to SDC and published on DGPC's website (www.duntongreen-pc.gov.uk). As we promised we would, details about the timing of the consultation and how to respond have been published across our social media and noticeboards. We know that many of you have been active in sharing information and rallying support, and we thank everyone that has done so. No Local Plan leaves SDC open to unplanned development (often referred to as speculative development), with less control over supporting facilities like roads, schools and other services. This is why your views matter!

PARISH COUNCIL News Highlights



- ♦ **Antisocial Behaviour (ASB)**. Once again, we have unfortunately seen some dangerous behaviour both on London Road and the Multi Use Games Area at the recreation ground, over the Halloween period where large numbers of young people gathered and a lot of glass was broken. We are working with Police colleagues but we urge everyone to **REPORT officially at the time of an incident**. Call 101 if you are reporting after the fact (or use Kent Police's online reporting tool) but call 999 if a crime is in progress. You can also report anonymously via CrimeStoppers (www.crimestoppers-uk.org). Together we should be able to make a difference. See page 45 for more details about how to contact Kent Police.
- ♦ **Dunton Green Parish Council - no vacancies!** The Parish Council is delighted to report that two new councillors were co-opted in October and have started with us. This means that we have a full complement of eleven councillors, for the first time in a many years. We look forward to working with Robert and Sara (see page 23).
- ♦ **Dunton Green Lunch Club**. We have worked closely with the dedicated volunteers running the Lunch Club to ensure its continuance. The Lunch Club which had been under the auspices of Age UK throughout its time in Dunton Green (having been held at the Social Club previously and for the last decade at the Pavilion). On 22nd September the volunteers were advised that Age UK would no longer be able to provide the food for the Lunch Club. Not wanting to close after all the work to establish a much-loved service, the volunteers sought the help of DGPC. A new caterer was quickly identified and the October session took place. Attendees were updated about the situation and consequently, with their support and that of the volunteers and DGPC, the Lunch Club has now been rebranded away from Age UK. The volunteers are now DGPC volunteers and the Parish Council oversees the operation, whilst it is business as usual for the volunteers! We have had such positive feedback to the new set up and we hope to see more of you coming along. See page 16 for details.

PARISH COUNCIL News Highlights



- ◆ **Highways concerns.** In October, the Parish Council (and others, including Laura Trott MP) was contacted by residents about an incident in the village where a car had mounted the pavement on London Road (near the Lennard Road junction), failed to stop for about 25m and pedestrians were endangered. Concerns about the safety of pavement users, such as school children on their way to and from school, were raised as a direct result. The Parish Council strives to make improvements where it can but, ultimately, it is not the Parish Council that has the final say. We have provided information in the 'Update On Road Safety In Dunton Green' article (starting on page 36) to help inform residents of what we have asked for in terms of safety improvements on the highways in Dunton Green over several years and the reasons we have been given against proposals being implemented. That, of course, does not mean that we do not continue to raise issues, make proposals and work towards implementation of solutions. At the moment, DGPC believes that a key piece of work is to resolve the flooding and the build up of silt and leaves in the underpass on London Road. This should be a safe route but, especially at this time of year, this is not always the case. We will be working with KCC, SDC and the school to establish what can be done to make things better.
- ◆ **Christmas Lights.** By the time you are reading this edition of Dunton Green News the village's Christmas lighting scheme will have been installed once again and the village should be starting to look very sparkly! Everyone is very welcome to come along to our Christmas Singalong (details on the back page), which we hope really gets everyone in the festive mood. There are also services to attend at St. Mary's (see page 25 for details) and much enjoyment to be had at the Christmas Tree Festival which is always worth a visit. DGPC will be submitting an entry again this year!
- ◆ **Season's Greetings.** This year has flown by! All of us at the Parish Council would like to take this opportunity wish all residents, businesses and organisations in Dunton Green a very merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year.

Christmas Tree Festival

St Mary's Riverhead

Parish Church of Riverhead with Dunton Green



13

DECEMBER

9:30am-
4:30pm

14

DECEMBER

11am -
3:30pm

There will be a Carol
Service Amid the Trees
at 3:30pm on Sunday
14th December

The Festival is a fantastic
display of Christmas trees,
provided by Individuals, Local
Organisations and Businesses

Refreshments will be
available. There will also
be a Gift Stall.

Donations will go to St
Mary's and Age UK

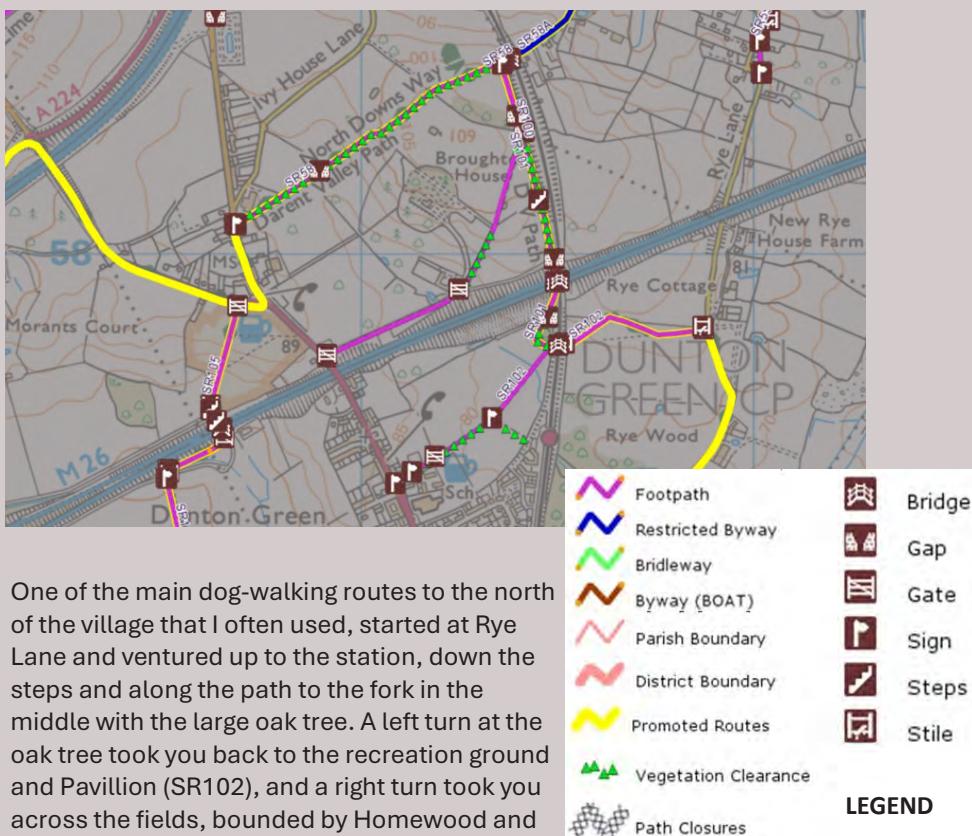


contact: christmas-tree-fest@stmaryriverhead.co.uk

Foot Paths around Dunton Green, by Cllr Debbie Parker

We are very lucky living in Dunton Green and being surrounded by wonderful countryside. Having lived in Dunton Green for many years and been a dog owner for around 30 of those years, I have walked many of the footpaths surrounding the village. What I was never quite sure of, however, was which were actual recognised footpaths, and which were made by the years of tracking of thousands of canine and human feet creating a convenient path across muddy fields, so I thought I would try to clarify if the many routes that we enjoyed were indeed Public footpaths.

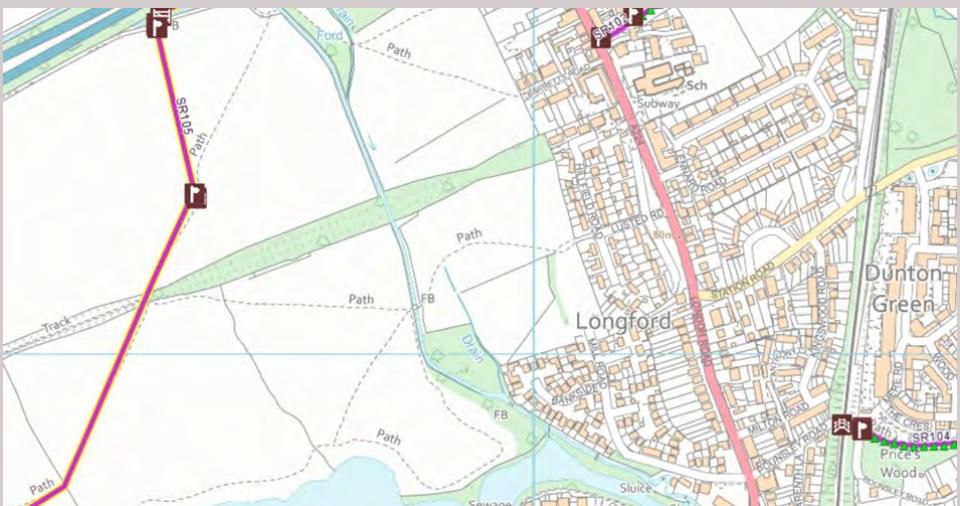
My first quest for information was the Kent County Council Public Rights of Way map, which shows the official Public Rights of Way around Dunton Green and surrounding villages. Part of the map is shown below and outlines footpaths to the upper and middle of the village.



One of the main dog-walking routes to the north of the village that I often used, started at Rye Lane and ventured up to the station, down the steps and along the path to the fork in the middle with the large oak tree. A left turn at the oak tree took you back to the recreation ground and Pavillion (SR102), and a right turn took you across the fields, bounded by Homewood and the railway line, and under the M26 motorway.

If we were on a short walk, we would turn left after the M26 subway (SR100) and walk back down past the haunted Pet Cemetery, the end of the long sweeping drive of Broughton House, its outbuildings (now business offices) and out by Broughton Lodge onto the A224 road just before the M26 flyover.

If time was plentiful, we would continue uphill from the M26 subway straight on (SR101), alongside several fields, where a right turn would take you on to Telston Lane, Otford or a left turn took you back down the hill, pass the Bluebell woods and came out to the left side of Donnington Manor. According to the KCC map, these footpaths formed part of the Darent Valley Path and continued onto the North Downs Way National Trail, both being official paths. The North Downs Way National Trail stretches across 153 miles of both Kent Downs and Surrey Hill Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is possibly too long a walk to get back by tea-time. Another path also started in Rye Lane just past the last house before the sheep fields and went behind the industrial units (SR103), alongside the Wildfowl Reserve and the Cold Store, now Rye Wood estate, and came out either at Prices Wood (SR104) or continued along to the Scout Hut and Riding Stables at Bradbourne. This used to be a very muddy and slippy path but is now much more accessible due to improvements as part of conditions to build Rye Wood estate. This, too, forms part of the 29 mile Darent Valley Path.



Also seen on the map is the footpath near Morants Court, starting opposite the Rose and Crown and across Millennium Wood (SR105). This path continues under the M26 and continues across the fields crossing the old Dunton Green to Westerham railway and follows the Darent Valley Path around Chipstead Lake to Chipstead.

Interestingly, by increasing the scale on the map, there are many footpaths criss-crossing the fields bounding west of Longford which are present but not easy to access since the incorporation of large trenches surrounding the edges of the fields.

Other wonderful walks to enjoy include the Polhill bank and Bluebell woods. If you have a walk that you would like to share, we would love to hear about it.

Happy walking!!

Dunton Green Parish Council

Christmas Singalong 2025



Friday 19th December, 6pm
Village Green
Everyone welcome!

